

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Although the Chinese Communists at first antagonized many of the minority racial groups by neglecting their problems and destroying property, the Communists are now attempting to gain the support of these groups by making gifts of food, sending good-will missions, and arranging for the minority groups to have some degree of self-government.
2. When the Chinese Communists gained control in northern Kwangtung, the Yao people in Liennan Hsien showed acute antagonism to the Nationalist officials by attacking small groups of Nationalist soldiers and by furnishing information to the Communists. The Yao people then sent a delegation of more than 100 representatives to the Communist hsien government with a petition asking for the hsien magistrate to go to the Yao area in order to understand the local problems and to correct the long-standing wrongs. The Communist Government sent the delegation home empty handed.
3. As a result, when Nationalist agents and guerrilla bands moved into the area, they were unopposed in establishing an anti-Communist base and expanding through the hills of Liennan Hsien. When the Communist hsien government sent men and cadres into the hills to investigate, they were summarily killed by the guerrillas and the co-operating tribesmen. In April 1950 some troops were sent into the hills and for about two months the guerrillas suffered numerous casualties. However, Liennan Hsien and the surrounding mountainous areas still harbor a considerable number of shifting groups of anti-Communist forces.
4. In Kwangsi there are about 40,000 primitive inhabitants of the Yao type. Their hills, which cover the hsien of Kueip'ing, Pingnan, Tong, Wuhuan, Hsiang, Mengshan, Hsiujen, and Chaop'ing, have harbored considerable guerrilla activity. For about six months prior to February 1951 several Chinese Communist divisions fought these guerrillas, but there are still about 30,000 guerrillas active in the district.

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5. In this area the aborigines harbor deep grudges against the Communists because of the indiscriminate arrests of the Yao villagers as suspected accomplices of the guerrillas. These villagers are further tied to the guerrillas because many of the Yao men do join the guerrilla bands in order to have enough to eat.
6. In Pingchu village of Pingnan Hsien in Kwangsi a coalition government of Chinese and Yao people was set up in July 1951, giving the Yao tribesmen some formal political representation. In the southern and southwestern provinces the Communist authorities often allow the primitive tribesmen to send representatives to the people's councils of the various administrative units. They are allowed to voice their complaints as long as the complaints are in line with Communist policies.
7. The Yao people of Lienan Hsien, Kwangtung, were allowed to send two representatives to the provincial people's council meeting in the fall of 1951. The Lienan Hsien government also ordered the government trading organization to buy up the products of the Yao people at a price slightly higher than normal, and to sell cloth and salt to the Yao people at a price slightly lower than the market value.
8. The Communists claim that the land reform will cure the traditional antagonism between the Chinese and the primitive peoples. In both Lienan and Juyuan Hsiens, Kwangtung, many landlords and local reactionaries are being punished or put to death on the complaints of the Yao people.
9. The central authority in Peking has begun to send goodwill missions to the non-Chinese peoples throughout the country. These missions are usually headed by party men and include many professors and students in the fields of anthropology and sociology. The aims of the missions are announced to be:
 - a. To extend MAO Tse-tung's good will and concern for the minority people.
 - b. To publicize the policy of equality, fraternity, mutual help and unity for the minority groups as stipulated in the Common Program.
 - c. To understand the conditions and problems of the minority peoples within the boundaries of China.
10. Four of these missions to the minority races have been sent out thus far. The first mission went to the southwestern provinces of Yunnan, Kweichow, and Szechwan. The vice chief of this mission was FRI Hsiao-tung, a sociology professor from Tsinghua University. The second mission started for Inner Mongolia in the middle of July 1950 and returned to Peking in the middle of December 1950. It was staffed mainly by teachers and students of the sociology department of Yenching University. The third mission went to the provinces of Shensi, Kansu, Ningxia, Szechuan, and Chinghai, leaving in August 1950 and returning in January 1951. This group was organized by Party men and contained no scholars. The fourth mission went to the provinces of Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Hunan. This group left Peking in June 1951 and is still in the field. FRI Hsiao-tung is one of the vice chiefs and there are many university people in the group. FRI Chia-wu, an anthropology professor

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of Lingnan University, was recruited as a vice chief by a sub-group of this mission in Kwangtung. A large number of students in sociology and anthropology from Lingnan and SUN Yat-sen Universities in Canton were also directed to join the group.

11. On 16 July 1951 a sub-group of the mission in Kwangtung called a meeting in a small trading town in Liannan Hsien. About 4,000 Yao tribesmen were herded to the meeting place. MA Chieh, the party leader of the group, told the tribesmen that the long-standing antagonism between the Chinese and the Yao's was due to the previous feudalistic rule which had now been wiped out. The Yao people were called on to fight for the common ideal. Next, several Yao leaders were put on the stage in support of the policy. Finally MA presented the Yao tribesmen with 7,500 catties of salt, 85,000 catties of rice, 33 bolts of cloth, 1,300 pieces of old and new clothing, and some items of medicine. A dance and propaganda drama were held in the evening and telegrams of thanks were sent to MAO and the Peking government.
12. The following estimate of the non-Chinese population in the southwestern provinces was brought back by the mission:

Tibetans	4,000,000 (including those in Tibet)
Yi	3,000,000
Miao	2,000,000
Chung	1,600,000
Moslems	1,000,000
Min	600,000
Ch'in	300,000
Others	5,500,000

These figures are only approximate since many of the primitive areas were not visited.

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